

Montgomery County Universal Preschool Implementation Work Group
December 11, 2008
6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Council Office Building, 6th Floor Conference Room
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

MINUTES

Members present:

Kate Garvey
Janine Bacquie
Jane Seffel
Julie Bader
Brad Stewart
Traci McLemore
Anne McLeer- alternate for Jackie Lichter
Rolf Grafwallner
Lindsey Allard
Jennifer Devine
Mary Lang
Asgar Muhammad- alternate for Khadra Ayorinde

Members not present:

Jose Alvarez
Gene Counihan
Clara Floyd
Khadra Ayorinde

The work group members that attended parent discussion groups around the county reported to the group responses from the parents. Traci McLemore informed the group on her conversation with Families Foremost. Vivian Yao informed the group on her conversation with Impact Silver Spring, Jane Seffel informed the group on her conversation with Montgomery Child Care Association. Janine Bacquie informed the group on her conversation with the HeadStart Policy Council.

The work group agreed to not attend additional parent meetings but distribute the UPK Survey to a broad representation of the County's demographic. Comments regarding the survey or who should be the intended recipients of the survey should be sent to Vivian Yao.

The group began discussing the of role higher education for early childhood educators. Brad Stewart from Montgomery College, Mary Lang from the Universities of Shady Grove, and Davenia Lea from Columbia Union College shared with the group the step,

challenges and obstacles for developing and implementing a four year early childhood education degree.

Montgomery College recognized the disconnection between the AAS degree transitioning to a bachelor's degree. The College also recognized that few providers are interested in pursuing the AAT degree, which can lead to a four year degree, because the degree is loaded with general education courses. Montgomery College and the Universities at Shady Grove are examining the possibility of an upside down bachelor's degree for AAS students. The schools are also examining whether courses can be offered online or in a hybrid format.

Columbia Union College offers a bachelors' degree in early childhood education in two formats, traditional and accelerated. The cohorts for this program are approximately 10 students. The early childhood accelerated program is designed for child care providers but students enter with approximately 56 transferable credits. Courses in the accelerated program are high correlated to the students' work experience and support is offered to the students through the program. Most child care providers do not participate in the certification degree program.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.